TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2006 LB 844, 994, 1079, 1179

department, and the disposition of the impounded sources of radiation. The second bill is LB 1179. The bill eliminates the state Behavioral Health Council, originally established in LB 1083 in 2004. The bill retains the state advisory committee on the mental health services and the state advisory committee on substance abuse services and the state advisory committee on problem gambling and addiction services, and would make them responsible to the Division of Behavioral Health Services What we're doing is eliminating one instead of the council. committee in there. This portion of the amendment also outright repeals obsolete provisions relating to the development of the behavioral health implementation plan under LB 1083. The third bill contained in AM2814 is LB 844, as amended by the committee. The portion of the amendment simply requires the Governor to appoint the chief administrative officer...a chief administrative officer for the Nebraska Health and Services System and deletes a current position of Policy Secretary. This portion of the amendment has an operative date of January 1, 2007. The fourth bill is LB 1079, introduced by Senator McDonald. The bill would create an Immunosuppressant Drug Repository Program modeled after the Cancer Drug Repository System adopted by the Legislature last year. And I would like to at this time, Mr. President, yield the remainder of my opening remarks on AM2814 to Senator McDonald, to speak after this portion of the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator. Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. President and members, I'd like to thank Senator Johnson (sic) for introducing this amendment. AM2814 contains LB 1079, which advanced to General File without amendment on a vote of six to nothing, and was named a Speaker's priority bill. Sections 1 through 8 create an Immunosuppressant Drug Repository Drug Program at Nebraska's two organ transplant centers. The program is intended to assist organ transplant who can't afford to refill their prescriptions. patients Immunosuppressant drugs are antirejection drugs used to reduce the body's immune system response to transplanted organs. Transplant patients cannot stop taking their medications without consequences. Their organ transplant fails or becomes damaged beyond repair. They go back on the waiting list for another